

THE GREAT PLAGUE.

CONFIRMATION OF ITS EXISTENCE AND GRAVE EXTENT.

Half a Dozen Counties Swept by the Plague—Whole Houses Empty of their Inmates—The Diagnoses of the Disease, and the Course it Runs—People Almost Starving.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., November 26.—The Courier-Journal recently sent a staff correspondent to investigate the reported ravages of the dread disease in Eastern Kentucky and Western Virginia.

W. Lester, a prominent attorney of this place, has just arrived from Mount Pleasant, the County seat of Harlan, where he has been two weeks past at Court, as acting prosecuting attorney.

Lester has information of the prevailing plague, principally from Harlan, Letcher, Perry, Leslie and Bell counties. He says that in Harlan it appears worse. It is most fatal and prevails to the greatest extent up about the headwater of Poor Fork and Clover creek, in the mountains, about twenty-five miles from Mount Pleasant.

This large territory is being terribly afflicted. The people are dying very rapidly. In one neighborhood twelve persons died in a single day in the latter part of last week, and there were scarcely well people enough to make them coffins and bury them.

On Brown's creek, which rises in Harlan and empties into the Cumberland river, in Bell county, the disease is raging with frightful fatality, and there is no means of keeping a record of the deaths.

All along the banks of the stream the people are sick, and physicians and medicines, outside of herbs and roots, with whose curative properties the natives are acquainted, are unknown and unobtainable.

The epidemic is rapidly spreading in Harlan county. In the district covering the Southern portion of Letcher and Perry, the whole of Leslie and the Northwest portion of Bell counties, the plague has obtained foothold, but reports as to its violence are very conflicting.

Lester thinks that the deaths run up into the hundreds while the number of those attacked cannot be estimated. The disease does not prevail at Mt. Pleasant. Lester further says that no one seemed to know the real nature of the pestilence.

Most of the people called it "flux," and it is probably a very aggravated form of that disease. It begins with griping pains in the stomach, followed by a debilitating discharge and swelling of the throat, and if not fatal in three or four days, the patient, as a rule, recovers. All reports agree as to the cause of the epidemic, it being attributed to the use of impure water by the natives.

The season has been unusually dry. The streams, as a rule, consisting only of narrow threads of murky, foul-smelling and foul-tasting water. The corn crop in all the counties named above is good, and starvation and want only exist because the people can spare no time from the sick to gather it. No mills are running on the smaller streams. My informant had no news except in a general way of the prevalence of the plague in Virginia or West Virginia.

A LATER ACCOUNT. LOUISVILLE, Ky., November 29.—Arthur A. Loomis, traveling representative for a New York firm, was in this city to-day, having just returned from a trip through the plague-stricken district of Eastern Kentucky. Mr. Loomis said he was four days in Manton county without disposing of a single article.

The people are absolutely crazy. They have no use for anything but coffins. In an interview on this subject he describes in picturesque language the situation as being a great deal worse than has been heretofore published. He describes the streams, wells and cisterns as having dried up; sheep and cattle dead upon parched fields, and every human being in the entire neighborhood dead. Thousands of persons perished within a few weeks. Starvation, Mr. Loomis says, has been the chief agent of death in the stricken locality.

He did it Once. "I never knew Sam Baldwin to tell the truth but once," remarked Colonel Foley to Jim Mitchell, of the Boston Globe, the latter being in Foley's store, one day.

"If Sam Baldwin told the truth, it must have been by accident," responded Mitchell.

"You have hit it precisely; it was by an accident that he told the truth. Sam had an old shot-gun that had been in the family forty years, and one day he put two loads into one barrel, and when he fired, the gun burst into a thousand pieces. When Sam was restored to consciousness, his head was bandaged up, and the doctors were exploring him for relics of the battle. The biggest piece of that gun that could be found was about two inches long, and was dug out from under his collar-bone. Then it was that Sam told the truth."

"He said if he lived to be 1,000 years old, he would never fire off that gun again, and he never did, for nobody could find that gun again when there was nothing of it left to fire off, except the piece Sam had hid away under his collar-bone."

"Just as I said. He never told the truth, unless it happened by accident."

A NEW PAIN KILLER.

The Discovery and use of a Rare Anesthetic—Experiments in Augusta with a new Drug.

[From the Augusta Chronicle.]

The medical world is considerably stirred up over the adoption of the hydro-chlorate of cocaine as a local anesthetic. The medical journals are full of the discovery, and the experiments with the drug are leading to some interesting developments. If not tending toward an entire revolution in the practice of anesthesia.

This drug is one of the extracts of cocoa, found in India, and up to one month ago probably was not used outside the solution of a kind of tea. Quite recently, however, a young medical student in Vienna applied the two per cent. solution as a local anesthetic, and since then some remarkable experiments have been made.

ITS APPEARANCE IN AUGUSTA. The first supply of the drug was received in Augusta by Dr. James M. Hull, who telegraphed to Philadelphia and received a small quantity. Encouraged by its use in operations upon the eye and throat he resolved to put it into practical effect in his work here, and two weeks ago last Sunday, November 16th used it by dropping the solution upon the ball of the eye for the purpose of scraping the cornea. He found that the eye was rendered, after a few applications, insensible to pain and his operation was satisfactorily and successfully performed. Since then Dr. Hull has employed the drug twice in operating upon cataracts, twice in removing the iris, three times in pterygium and once in a case of cross-eye. He has applied two drops of the two per cent. solution every two or three minutes, and finds it produces absolute insensibility to pain in the surfaces touched by it. The effect lasts from 20 to 25 minutes, when applications can be made.

Dr. Hull tells the Chronicle that Drs. Agnew, Knapp, Miller and Chisolm, of America, are much interested in the drug, which is manufactured solely by Merck, of Darmstadt. The drug, before it is dissolved, is a white powder resembling quinine, costs about \$5,000 a pound. In solution it is colorless and odorless, but has a bitter taste. It has been found that it can be swallowed to the quantity of fifteen grains, producing insensibility with no serious after effects.

ANOTHER TEST IN THIS CITY. On the 18th of November Dr. W. H. Doughty, Jr., in this city, received his supply of the drug, and resolved to use it in surgical operations. It had been ascertained that it can be applied to advantage principally upon mucous surfaces—the eye, mouth, nose, etc., as the outer skin does not absorb it rapidly enough, and as the anesthetic quality extends over a small space, say three-quarters of an inch.

Dr. Doughty, however, on the 18th instant made a most satisfactory cutting into a vesico vaginal fistula, and found that during the operation of the drug the process was painless to the patient which ordinarily occasions intense suffering. As the effects of the drug wore off the pain increased, but upon its re-application, the same happy effects were obtained. Dr. Doughty found also that the employment of the drug considerably arrested hemorrhage and since that, has used it upon other delicate operations with general success.

The drug can also be administered subcutaneously with hypodermic injection, although this branch of its effects has not yet been deeply investigated. Dr. Hull believes that it can be employed with fine advantage in dentistry and we learn that Dr. Winkler and himself will test its efficacy on the gums and tooth-nerve to-morrow.

The promise of the drug is great and these experiments in Augusta where the power and pith of the chlorate are being more exhaustively and accurately studied than in any Southern city, will be watched with intense interest.

A MYSTERY OF THE MOUNTAINS. The People of North Carolina Starved by a Singular Phenomenon.

Dr. J. S. T. Baird writes the Asheville Citizen as follows: "The people living in the vicinity of Elk Mountain, both on the Reems Creek and Beaver Dam sides, were started by a strange and unusual phenomenon which visited that section about 9 o'clock on Saturday morning, the 1st instant. Standing as I did on an elevated point on my farm, with a full and unobstructed view of the entire Elk Mountain range, and happening at the very moment to have my eyes turned in the direction of the point in question, it afforded me an excellent opportunity to observe the whole phenomenon. The morning was exceedingly bright and almost ominously calm. At a point about due North of my home, and seemingly just over the crest of the mountain, and at the hour above stated, there was what seemed to be a most terrific subterranean explosion, followed by a very perceptible jarring and trembling of the earth for miles around, and a heavy rumbling sound as of the deep intonations of distant thunder, which came on with increasing volume for several seconds. The sound proceeded with rapid undulations in an easterly direction, following the course of the mountains, and seeming to traverse the deep bowels of the earth, until it reached a point on the horizon of our valley about 45 degrees East from where it started, when it suddenly leaped forth from the bosom of the mountain, and lifting itself above the horizon, pealed out upon the air like a mighty thunderbolt, and thus it ended as suddenly as it began. I have con-

versed with one gentleman, Mr. A. E. Hemphill, who was on top of the mountain, in the immediate vicinity of where the first shock occurred. He says that it seemed to be directly beneath him and the sensation was as though the whole mountain was tumbling from its foundation, with a fearful shaking and trembling of the earth. I learn that two other gentlemen, Mr. Steve Monday and Mr. James Edwards, who were on the mountain some two miles further East, describe the sound and the shaking and trembling of the mountain as most appalling and terrifying, even putting the leaves on the trees in rapid and lively motion. I have seen other persons who left and heard the shock many miles away. But what renders it really phenomenal was its recurrence about sunset on the evening of the same day. I was in Asheville in the evening and did not witness the phenomenon at that hour, but I am told by a number of reliable persons that there was a recurrence with the same characteristics about the hour of sunset."

Boys' Rights. People talk about sovereign rights, civil rights, State rights, women rights, up-right and down-right and the like, but nobody ever talks about boys' rights. Poor fellows, I know a lot of them and they will tell you the boy is somebody without a right in the world, except that one little fellow who

"stood upon the burning deck, Whence all but him had fled."

The boy is terribly imposed on. He has to take all the "sass" and impudence of others and give none back, because he is a boy. He gets all the boxings and whippings at school for himself and the girls too, because he is a boy. He has to pick up chips at home, carry the water, hoe the garden and go to mill, because he is a boy. He pays full fare on the cars because he is a boy and not a child; gets no seat in a crowd, because he is a boy and not a man. No matter for all that, he is a boy, let him stand. The world is full of boys doing men's work for their virtuous and clothes. Why these miserable newspaper men advertise for boys, with good moral character, who can write a good hand, cast up accounts, sit up all night, "chaw" no tobacco and can set up 1,000 ems an hour, all for 50 cents a month.

But law me, "boys will be boys." People say they are always in the way when there is nothing to do. Father says when they go about him: "I don't your mother want you?" and she says, when they make a little fuss about her, that it makes her head fairly ache. Big sister don't want them in the parlor when she is "chatting her beau" and little sis always hollers "go-way" when there is any candy on hand. The old ladies snap at them and young ladies point at them, just because they are boys. They have a "hard road to travel" and when they meet up together they are so aggravated with their lot, they want to fight somebody and they pitch in and get a black eye, a torn jacket and "catch thunder" at home. When they see some little sweet chap in "petticoats," they wonder if they were ever stuffed with candy and called "buddy" by every one passing along. All that keeps boys from drowning themselves is they hope some day to be grown men, loved by the girls, paid for their labor, too big to be whipped and do as they please.

So you see there are sovereign rights, civil rights, State rights, women rights, wheel-wrights, cart-wrights and scawrights, but no boys' rights. But there is one comfort for us little fellows after all—"every dog has his day." We won't always be boys and then we will forget the past and we will make the boys in our day "stand round" just like we have to do. And bless you, "our gal" will whisper "love and moonshine" in our ear as sweetly as the young ladies do now to those College boys who don't know "by" from a broom stick. Hurrab for Young America (and Hampton) rights or no rights, we are the boys and we will make our mark in the world some day.

The mason cotton harvester has been tested in the presence of a commission of the New Orleans Exposition. Their report agrees with the following extract from it:

"An intelligent planter from Mississippi who witnessed its performance at this stage of the cotton plant offered the highest prospective price for the machine for his own use in the present cotton crop. After close examination of the results, he gave it as his opinion that, with the machine then working and three good hands to follow and glean after it, he could do the work of forty hands a day."

Tone up the system by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It will make you feel like a new person. Thousands have found health and relief from suffering by the use of this great blood purifier when all other means failed.

No Food or Death. Mr. W. T. Wright died at his home in Newberry Saturday, the 29th of November, aged fifty-four years. Mr. Wright was a native of Tennessee, but moved to Georgia at a very early age and grew to manhood in that State. In 1853 he came to Newberry, and in the following year he was married to Miss Mary Blewse. Nine children were born to them, of whom only three survive. For the past few years Mr. Wright's family have been greatly afflicted. In 1881 he lost a daughter thirteen or fourteen years old; in May, 1883, a grown son; in December, 1883, a grown daughter; and in August, 1884, his wife. Mr. Wright had always enjoyed good health up to a few months ago, when he discovered some-

thing the matter with his throat. In October he visited Atlanta, Georgia, and consulted Dr. Calhoun. The Doctor informed him that it was a cancerous growth in his throat that must soon end his life. Not at all alarmed by the intelligence, Mr. Wright returned and began to put his house in order by getting all his business in proper shape. The more important preparation he had made before, and upon that point never had the slightest doubt or fear. He talked of his approaching end as a man talks of going on a journey. He remained at his store until too feeble to get there, and then he transferred his books and papers to his house and there continued to administer his business affairs to the last. As far as it was possible he was his own executor. He had even selected his coffin, had had his tombstone prepared, inscribed and set up in the cemetery—nothing remaining to be done except to inscribe the day of his death—and had paid for them.

Mr. Wright was a consistent and devoted member of the Baptist Church, and was a good citizen.—Newberry Observer.

Blaine and Logan. The Washington Sunday Herald has the following society paragraph: "This week Mr. and Mrs. Blaine will move into ex-secretary Windom's house on Scott Circle, which they will occupy all winter. It is conjectured by many that they purpose setting up a social headquarters there and entertaining their clique in opposition to the social force of the present administration and of the next one, and will endeavor to draw recruits from the former. Thus there will be three factions in Washington society this winter—the powers that be, the powers that are going to be after March 4, and the powers that tried to be but couldn't. Between the first two the most friendly relations will doubtless exist, but between the disappointed faction and either of the other two there is not likely to be more than a ceremonious interchange of civilities, if even that."

It is not believed that Gen. and Mrs. Logan will ally themselves with the malcontents at the Blaine headquarters. Their friends here, and they have many in all parties, will be eager to show them attention, and in the most delicate manner indicate the sympathy they feel for their various misfortunes and their admiration for Senator Logan's dignified, course since the election as compared with that of the head of the ticket.

An ardent democrat who arrived last week from Illinois in the midst of his rejoicings over the victory of his party, paused to commend Gen. Logan for having accepted defeat in so manly and dignified a manner, and expressed much sympathy for the disappointment he and his wife must feel.

One of Mr. Blaine's main friends has lately said of his future course: "Blaine may not expect to be President, but he expects to have a good deal to do in making Presidents."

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TOLD IN TWO LETTERS.

FROM THE SON: "28 Cedar St., New York, Oct. 23, 1882."

"Gentlemen: My father resides at Glover, Vt. He has been a great sufferer from Scrofula, and the inclosed letter will tell you what a marvelous effect

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

had in his case. I think his blood must have contained the humor for at least ten years; but it did not show, except in the form of a scrofulous sore on the wrist, until about five years ago. From a few spots which appeared at that time, it gradually spread so as to cover his entire body. I assure you he was terribly afflicted, and an object of pity, when he began using your medicine. Now, there are few men of his age who enjoy as good health as he has. I could easily name fifty persons who would testify to the facts in his case. Yours truly, W. M. PHILLIPS."

FROM THE FATHER: "It is both a duty for me to state to you the benefit I have derived from the use of

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Six months ago I was completely covered with a terrible humor and scrofulous sores. The humor caused an incessant and intolerable itching, and the skin cracked so as to cause the blood to flow in many places whenever I moved. My sufferings were great, and my life a burden. I commenced the use of the Sarsaparilla in April, and have used it regularly since that time. My condition began to improve at once. The sores have all healed, and I feel perfectly well in every respect, being now able to do a good day's work, although 73 years of age. Many inquire what has wrought such a cure in my case, and I tell them, as I have here tried to tell you, AYER'S SARSAPARILLA. Glover, Vt., Oct. 21, 1882. Yours gratefully, HIRAM PHILLIPS."

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